

REMARKS

Applicants' representatives thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an in-person interview conducted on December 15, 2005. The instant response addresses substantive points discussed during the interview. Specifically, the instant response discusses biological agents. Applicants also thank the Examiner for his comments regarding orientation of the masks. The present response is believed to constitute a complete written statement of the reasons presented in the interview as warranting favorable action, as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.133.

Additionally, in the title, “, including Pixelated Electroluminescent Displays” has been deleted. In addition, claims 52, 53, and 92 have been amended to recite “biological agent,” and claim 91 has been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added.

New dependent claims 101 to 104 have also been added. These claims respectively depend from independent claims 51-53 and 92. Each of these claims recites “engaging the biological agent in a biochemical interaction.” Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, for example, on page 19, lines 31-32. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Claims 51-62 and 92-104 are now pending for examination.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) with respect to Xia

The Patent Office has rejected claims 51 and 52 as being anticipated by Xia, et al., “Micromolding of Polymers in Capillaries: Applications in Microfabrication,” *Chemistry of Materials*, 1996, 8(7), 1558-1567 (“Xia”).

It is not seen where in Xia is there a disclosure or a suggestion of a biological agent, as is recited in claim 51. Xia discusses micromolding of polymers in capillaries, but does not disclose biological agents. With respect to the Examiner's position that gold is a biological agent, Applicants respectfully disagree, and believe that one of ordinary skill in the art, in reading the instant specification, would not interpret a “biological agent” to be any substance that could interact with a biological organism, as this definition would encompass practically any substance ever identified, i.e., this definition appears to be excessively and unreasonably broad. Instead, it is believed that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that a biological agent is an agent that

arises from biological source. Further, it is also believed that this definition is consistent with the way “biological agent” has been used in the specification.

Accordingly, it is believed that claim 51 is not anticipated by Xia, and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn. With respect to claim 52, this claim, as amended, also recites a “biological agent,” and is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 52 is also respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) with respect to Rustomji in view of Smith and Allinikov

Claims 53-62 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rustomji, U.S. Patent No. 4,511,599 (“Rustomji”) in view of Smith, U.S. Patent No. 4,119,745 (“Smith”), and further in view of Allinikov, U.S. Patent No. 4,097,776 (“Allinikov”).

It is not seen where in any of Rustomji, Smith, or Allinikov is there a disclosure or a suggestion of a biological agent, discussed above. Each of Rustomji, Smith, and Allinikov are generally directed to electroluminescent displays, and none of these references discusses a biological agent. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 53, as amended, is not unpatentable over Rustomji, Smith, and Allinikov, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 53 be withdrawn. Claims 54-62 each depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 53, and are believed to be allowable for at least the above-mentioned reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is also respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) with respect to Rustomji in view of Smith

The Patent Office has rejected claims 92-100 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rustomji in view of Smith.

As previously discussed, it is not seen where in either Rustomji or Smith is there a disclosure or a suggestion of a biological agent (discussed above) as is recited in claim 92, as amended. Each of Rustomji and Smith are generally directed to electroluminescent displays, and none of these references discusses a biological agent. Moreover, it is not seen where in either Rustomji or Smith is there a disclosure or a suggestion of an elastomeric masking system, as is recited in claim 92.

Thus, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of independent claim 92 be withdrawn. Claims 93-100 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 92, and are believed to be allowable for at least these reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is also respectfully requested.

Response to Remarks

With respect to the Official Notice that cadmium oxide is a biological agent, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's definition, and believe that one of ordinary skill in the art, reading the instant application, would not interpret a "biological agent" to be any substance that can interact with a biological organism. Instead, Applicants believe that those of ordinary skill in the art would understand that a biological agent is an agent that arises from biological source, as discussed above.

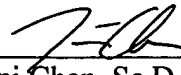
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this response, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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